

Tuesday, 28 November 2006

NEW WATER RESTRICTIONS SHOULD SAVE AN EXTRA 20 BILLION LITRES

Acting Water Minister John Hill says that based on modelling by SA Water, the Government hopes in this current financial year to save about an extra 20 billion litres of water through its new enhanced Level 3 water restrictions.

“The Government hopes that combined with the on-going permanent water conservation measures introduced three years ago, we could save as much as 40 billion litres – or 40 gigalitres – of water by the end of this financial year.

“And we hope to do that by relying on the good will and common sense of residents and other River Murray water users, who I am sure will embrace the water restrictions – as they have done to date.

“I have a high regard for people’s ability to understand restrictions because of the demonstrable savings we have made so far as a result of water conservation measures.

“The new enhanced Level 3 water restrictions will be introduced on January 1, 2007.

“The new restrictions will end the use of sprinklers in gardens on weekdays.

“Even numbered residences will be able to use sprinklers on a Saturday from 5 am to 8 am or 8 pm to 11 pm.

“Odd numbered residents will be able to use sprinklers on a Sunday from 5 am to 8 am or 8 pm to 11 pm.

“And hand-held hoses and drip systems will only be allowed between 8 pm and 8 am.

“We think the changes are fairly straight-forward for households to follow – but a major advertising campaign will ensure people have plenty of information and time to get used to the changes.

“These are the most severe restrictions ever imposed on South Australians and we believed it was important that people be given plenty of time to get to readjust their watering habits.

“It is worth reminding South Australians that fairly harsh restrictions placed on irrigators should produce a further water saving of around 220 gigalitres this financial year.

Details about the Level 3 restrictions are available on www.sawater.com.au - or call the hotline on 180 2020.

FURTHER RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Government has also introduced a 20-year **Water Proofing Adelaide** strategy for the management, conservation and development of Adelaide's water resources.

It contains **63 strategies** – work is occurring on developing all of them. Seven are completed with many of the others nearing completion or remaining as ongoing activities.

Completed include:

- Establishing mandatory requirements for plumbing rainwater tanks into new homes,
- the enactment of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004, and
- the adoption of the Urban Stormwater Policy for South Australia.

Underway include:

Funding for several major stormwater and wastewater re-use projects has been committed and announced. These projects are now in the process of being implemented:

- The **\$4.07m** Virginian pipeline extension to supply Angle Vale with reused water from Bolivar. The project is expected to supply 3,000ML per annum to the horticulture industry.
- Water Proofing Northern Adelaide. A **\$90.2 m** Federal/State/Local/private sector project to harvest stormwater for reuse around the Cities of Salisbury, Tea Tree Gully and Playford, supplying a massive 38,000ML of water per annum. It will reduce Adelaide's demand on the Mt Lofty Ranges catchments and the River Murray, and address overuse of groundwater and help reduce the impact of stormwater and wastewater on the local and marine environments.
- The **\$6.5m** Metropolitan Adelaide storm water reuse project to create storm water reuse schemes at the three major irrigation sites in our western suburbs: the Grange, Royal Adelaide and Glenelg Golf Clubs. It will end the clubs' use of 1000 ML of groundwater a year from the local aquifer and allow them to source their water from local urban storm water catchments.
- **\$51.3m** Federal/State/private sector funded project called Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Mount Lofty Ranges. The scheme will safeguard the water resources by:
 - providing formal water allocation arrangements,
 - establishing clear water access entitlements,
 - creating a water trading regime,
 - implementing a resource management plan
 - providing water quality and pollution risk management programs
 - improving production and resource management.

The Government has also introduced a Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Scheme, which applies mandatory water efficiency labelling and minimum performance standards to household water-using products has been introduced

Other initiatives to promote more efficient water use include:

- Permanent water conservation measures.
- A \$400 rebate for plumbing rainwater tanks into existing homes - as announced by the Government during the 2006 election campaign.
- Rebates for water efficient showerheads, tap timers and flow restrictors.